

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 02399 181338Z

51

ACTION OS-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CU-04 AID-05 /021 W

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P 181322Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1754

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2399

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASCH, SY

SUBJ: SCIENCE TEACHER FOR DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

REF: A. DAMASCUS 2267 B. STATE 219907

1. PLEASE ADVISE STATUS RECRUITMENT OF SCIENCE TEACHER ASAP. PRINCIPAL OF SCHOOL HAS INDICATED THAT POSITION SHOULD BE FILLED SOONEST AND INTENDS TO ASK SCHOOL BOARD FOR PERMISSION TO HIRE A LOCAL TEACHER ON TEMPORARY BASIS. EMBASSY IS CONCERNED THAT TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS SOMETIMES BECOME PERMANENT AND SUCH A SITUATION WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO EFFORTS TAKEN THUS FAR TOWARDS STRENGTHENING ACADEMIC QUALITY OF SCHOOL. SCHOOL BOARD WILL MEET AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 22, 1974 AND EMBASSY SPOKESMAN WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE BOARD WITH CURRENT STATUS OF RECRUITING SCIENCE TEACHER FROM U.S. A.

2. CONTRACTS FOR TEACHERS WILL BE DISCUSSED AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING AND WE WOULD LIKE TO RAISE QUESTION OF MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR AMERICAN TEACHERS. WOULD APPRECIATE A/OS CONTACTING BLUE CROSS PER PARA 2 OF REFTEL B TO ASCERTAIN AND ADVISE EMBASSY HOW MUCH THE PREMIUM WOULD BE TO COVER ONE OR POSSIBLY TWO AMERICAN TEACHERS EMPLOYED BY DAMASCUS COMMUNITY SCHOOL. SCHOOL DOES NOT PROVIDE THIS TYPE COVERAGE FOR LOCALLY HIRED TEACHERS THEREFORE IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO INCLUDE SUCH COVERAGE IN CONTRACTS OF AMERICAN TEACHERS WITHOUT KNOWING COST INVOLVED AND WHETHER FUNDS FOR SUCH COVERAGE ARE TO BE INCLUDED IN GRANT. EMBASSY FEELS THAT

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IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT MEDICAL COVERAGE BE PROVIDED SINCE

ANY UNFORESEEN EXPENSIVE MEDICAL EXPENSES ATTRIBUTABLE TO
ILLNESS OR ACCIDENT COULD CREATE SERIOUS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS
WHICH BOTH THE SCHOOL AND THE EMBASSY WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY
RESOLVING.

3. REQUEST GUIDANCE ON POINTS RAISED IN PARA 1 AND 2 BY
PRIORITY CABLE.
MURPHY

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NNN

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